About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

The aim of the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) is to provide a digest of news and publications focusing on key subjects and themes related to the work of IMO. Each CAB issue presents headlines from the previous month. For copyright reasons, the Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) contains brief excerpts only. Links to the complete articles or abstracts on publishers’ sites are included, although access may require payment or subscription.

The MKC Current Awareness Bulletin is disseminated monthly and issues from the current and the past years are free to download from this page.

Email us if you would like to receive email notification when the most recent Current Awareness Bulletin is available to be downloaded.

The Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) is published by the Maritime Knowledge Centre and is not an official IMO publication. Inclusion does not imply any endorsement by IMO.

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IMO NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT'S NEW

New IMO department will tackle key global issues through innovative partnerships

A new department has been established within the IMO Secretariat to focus on supporting Member States to tackle key global issues in the context of international shipping - and help promote sustainable development.

Operational from 1 March 2020, the Department for Partnerships and Projects will enhance and strengthen partnerships with external stakeholders and donor agencies to tackle some of the major global challenges which impinge on today's maritime world. More...

IMO MEETINGS FOR 2020

IMO postpones meetings due to COVID-19

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has decided to postpone a number of meetings following the global coronavirus outbreak.

The move takes into account the decision of the United Kingdom on 5 March 2020 to move towards the "delay" phase of its Coronavirus action plan: a guide to what you can expect across the UK, similar actions adopted by other UN agencies, and the increased difficulties for delegates from IMO Member States traveling from abroad to attend IMO meetings. More...

LATEST PRESS BRIEFINGS

RECENT SPEECHES BY IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM

2020 Tacitus Lecture, Guildhall, London (Video and transcript) 27 February 2020

Flagship conference European Shipping Week 2020 - Challenges and opportunities affecting the maritime industry and IMO's role, 20 February 2020

Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 7), 17-21 February 2020 (Opening remarks)

Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 7), 3-7 February 2020 (Opening address)

IMO NEWS MAGAZINE (Winter 2019)

IMO PUBLISHING Just Published 2020 February 2020 Newsletter
UNITED NATIONS

Ocean Conference has potential to be a ‘global game-changer’. UN News. 4 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056692](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056692). The second global Ocean Conference taking place in Portugal in a few months’ time promises to be “a critical moment” for the health of life under water and on land, the President of the UN General Assembly said on Tuesday, as preparations got underway.

2020: the year for action, to ‘rise up’ and safeguard ocean life. UN News. 5 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056792](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056792). Multiple stressors are eroding the ocean’s ability to function as the planet’s life support system, and so defending its capacity to produce oxygen, sequester carbon and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people is vital, delegates heard.


Coronavirus containment is the key, as infections tick up: Tedros. UN News. 10 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057051](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057051). After earlier describing cases of infection in people with no travel history to China as possibly the “tip of the iceberg”, the World Health Organization Director-General warned in Geneva that while the spread of the respiratory disease appeared to be slow, it could accelerate.


UN health agency developing COVID-19 virus treatment master plan. UN News. 12 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057281](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057281). Mr. Tedros was speaking at a press conference in Geneva, at the conclusion of a two-day research and innovation forum on COVID-19, during which leading health experts from around the world met to assess the current level of knowledge about the new disease, identify gaps and work together, so that critical research can begin immediately.
Outside China, Coronavirus transmission 'iceberg' may not be as big as feared. *UN News.*
13 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057331](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057331). As infections from COVID-19 coronavirus continue to rise, a senior UN health expert on Thursday said that there were some indications that disease transmission outside China might not be the tip of the “iceberg” that had been feared.

‘This is a time for facts, not fear,’ says WHO chief as COVID-19 virus spreads. *UN News.*
15 February 2020. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057481](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057481). As the number of coronavirus cases reportedly passed 60,000, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told foreign policy and security experts gathered for the Munich Security Conference that the UN agency was encouraged that there has not yet been widespread community transmission of the virus, now named COVID-19, outside of China.


CASUALTIES

Report: Misdeclared Charcoal Likely Caused Yantian Express Fire. Maritime Executive. 4 February 2020. Available from: https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/report-misdeclared-charcoal-likely-caused-yantian-express-fire Germany’s Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) has released its report into the container fire aboard the Hapag-Lloyd container ship Yantian Express last year, and it has determined that the blaze was likely caused by a misdeclared cargo of charcoal.


Capesize crushed after Turkish bulk carrier lost control. Gary Dixon. TradeWinds. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/capesize-crushed-after-turkish-bulk-carrier-lost-control/2-1-755623 A Japanese capesize suffered severe damage after it was hit by a Turkish bulker off the UK last year, but no cause has been found for the incident.

Experts to examine mystery ‘ghost ship' run aground off Cork coast during Storm Dennis. Independent (Ireland). 17 February 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2wvF9hP The 80 metre (240ft) vessel, believed to be the MV Alta, was driven ashore near Ballycotton in east Cork by the raging seas of Storm Dennis and left wedged on rocks by the high tide.


**ENVIRONMENT**


UN Secretary General calls for action to protect world’s oceans. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa (ECA). 9 February 2020. Available from: https://www.uneca.org/stories/un-secretary-general-calls-action-protect-world’s-oceans United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, on Saturday called on the international community to protect the oceans from further abuse, and enable humankind to live in harmony with the oceans that sustain them.


Replica of a 2000-year-old boat makes landfall in Florida after 6,000-mile journey across the Atlantic for #CleanSeas. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 12 February 2020. Available from: https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/repli...replic... Shipping gold from Africa, tin from Britain and linen from Egypt, the Phoenicians were once one of the most significant trading powers in the world.

Life without ice. Mark C. Urban. Science. 14 February 2020. Available from: https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6479/719 The National Snow and Ice Data Center reported that last year’s minimum Arctic sea ice extent was the second lowest on record. Similarly, the Polar Science Center found that 2019 ended with the second lowest Arctic sea ice volume on record.


Why we need more marine protected areas. Sarah Ryan Enright. *RTÉ (Ireland)* 27 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2020/0226/1117733-marine-protected-areas/](https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2020/0226/1117733-marine-protected-areas/) The global ocean covers 71% of the surface of the planet, contains 97% of the earth’s water and is rich in biodiversity. It provides essential ecosystem services which make life on earth possible, including food, water, oxygen and climate regulation.


**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**


New study shows *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill larger than previously thought. *EurekAlert!* 12 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-02/uomr-nss021020.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-02/uomr-nss021020.php) Toxic and invisible oil spread well beyond the known satellite footprint of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, according to a new study led by scientists at the University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel school of Marine and Atmospheric Science.


Scientists gather to study risk from microplastic pollution in ocean. Gillian Flaccus. *Portland Press Herald (US).* 24 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.pressherald.com/2020/02/24/scientists-gather-to-study-risk-from-microplastic-pollution-in-ocean/](https://www.pressherald.com/2020/02/24/scientists-gather-to-study-risk-from-microplastic-pollution-in-ocean/) The goal of the West Coast group is to create a mathematical risk assessment for microplastic pollution in the region similar to predictions used to game out responses to major natural disasters such as earthquakes.

HEALTH & SAFETY


Passengers face two weeks on virus-hit cruise ship off Japan. Ju-min Park and David Dolan. Reuters. 4 February 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/38OkWYA. Around 3,700 people are facing at least two weeks locked away on a cruise liner anchored off Japan after health officials confirmed on Wednesday that 10 people on the ship had tested positive for coronavirus and more cases were possible.

Coronavirus: thousands more cruise passengers might have been exposed to deadly infection. Phila Siu and Kanis Leung. South China Morning Post. 6 February 2020. Available from: https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3049318/coronavirus-thousands-more-cruise-passengers. Thousands more people than previously thought might have been exposed to the deadly coronavirus, after a cruise line admitted one of its ships had sailed four times since carrying eight mainland Chinese passengers infected with the disease.


Sixty more people confirmed with coronavirus on cruise ship in Japan: media. Rocky Swift. Reuters. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2vCySB4. Testing aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan has revealed 60 more confirmed cases of coronavirus, media said on Monday, as quarantined passengers took to social media to warn of depression setting in over their confinement.
Coronavirus: Thousands on cruise ship allowed to disembark after tests. *BBC News.* 10 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-51433079](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-51433079). Thousands of people stuck on a cruise ship in Hong Kong for four days have been allowed to disembark after tests for coronavirus came back negative.


**Japan cruise ship coronavirus cases climb to 175, including quarantine officer.** Ju-min Park and Elaine Lies. *Reuters.* 12 February 2020. Available from: [https://reut.rs/3aCEUkb](https://reut.rs/3aCEUkb). Another 39 people have tested positive for the coronavirus on the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship quarantined in Japan, with one quarantine officer also infected, bringing the total to 175, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

**39 and one inspector infected on Diamond Princess.** *NHK World (Japan).* 12 February 2020. Available from: [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200212_24/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200212_24/). Japan’ health minister Katsunobu Kato says 39 more people on board a cruise ship at the port of Yokohama have been found to be infected with the new coronavirus.


Giant ships, big diseases. Michael Grey. Seatrade Maritime News. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/giant-ships-big-diseases One wonders, as the size and capacity of cruise ships mushroomed, and the various lines proudly unveiled their latest mammoth vessel, with all its outrageous attractions, whether anyone gave much thought to the prospect of the thousands of souls aboard contracting a seriously contagious disease such as the coronavirus.

The mental strain of working at sea. Linton Nightingale. Lloyd's List. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydlist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130838/The-mental-strain-of-working-at-sea Research has revealed that more than a quarter of seafarers suffer from depression, while a survey showed 20% had either considered suicide or attempted suicide.


More passengers to leave cruise ship in Cambodia after coronavirus tests. Chhorn Chansy. Reuters. 18 February 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/32POyNF More passengers from a cruise ship that docked in Cambodia last week after being turned away at five other ports will fly home on Tuesday, following tests for the new coronavirus, the country's prime minister said.


An expert booted off the Diamond Princess says Japan's coronavirus control is “completely chaotic”. Mary Hui. Quartz. 19 February 2020. Available from: https://qz.com/1804615/japanese-expert-on-chaotic-coronavirus-infection-control-on-diamond-princess/ Kentaro Iwata, an infectious diseases expert at Kobe University, was brought onto the Diamond Princess yesterday, a day before the Japanese government began allowing passengers to disembark from the quarantined cruise ship.


Maersk employees sent home after travels to northern Italy and South Korea. Ritzau Finans. *ShippingWatch*. 26 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11968327.ece* A.P. Moeller-Maersk on Wednesday implemented a 14-day period of working from home for employees who have been to South Korean or parts of northern Italy.


*IMO*


Is IMO’s GHG legislation stuck between two fundamentally conflicting principles? Yasiru Ranaraja. Seatrade Maritime News. 6 February 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/38l0fNs  The IPCC special report Global Warming of 1.5c summarised that human activities have estimated caused 0.8 to 1.2 degrees c increase of global temperature and under current pathways most likely to reach 1.5 degrees c increase between 2030 to 2052.


IMO advisors lack clear evidence ahead of much-anticipated scrubber verdict. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 17 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11947245.ece  It could take years still to get final clarification about whether washwater from scrubbers pollute the marine environment or not, several sources tell ShippingWatch.

Environmental threats from ship scrubbers front and center during International Maritime Organization meeting. Stand.earth. 18 February 2020. Available from: https://www.stand.earth/latest/protect-arctic/clean-ship-fuel/environmental-threats-ship-scrubbers-front-and-center-during  Questions over the efficacy and cumulative marine impacts of ship scrubbers will be front and center during this week’s International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Pollution Prevention & Response sub-committee (PPR7) meeting, which runs from Monday 17 until Friday 21 February.

New coalition demands Europe takes the lead over IMO on emissions. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 19 February 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/new-coalition-demands-europe-takes-the-lead-over-imo-on-emissions/  The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has failed to clean up shipping’s carbon footprint so the European Union ought to take the lead, a new coalition of protestors have said at a noisy protest outside the European Parliament in Brussels today.


Arctic Heavy Fuel Oil Ban Inches Forward, but loopholes denounced as “outrageous”.
*Clean Arctic Alliance.* 21 February 2020. Available from: https://www.hfofreearctic.org/en/2020/02/21/arctic-heavy-fuel-oil-ban-inches-forward-but-loopholes-denounced-as-outrageous/ NGOs and Indigenous groups today cautiously acknowledged progress by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Member States in agreeing on a draft regulation on heavy fuel oil (HFO) use and carriage in the Arctic, but denounced the inclusion of loopholes in the text that mean the ban will not come into effect until 2029, leaving the Arctic exposed to the growing threat of HFO spills for close to another decade.


The IMO may sound boring, but its consequences are anything but Roger McKnight. *Truck News (Canada).* 24 February 2020. Available from: https://www.trucknews.com/blogs/the-imo-may-sound-boring-but-its-consequences-are-anything-but/ You may be pleased to know that after today I will be taking a sabbatical from today’s, “let's-get-em-excited” topic — the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2020.

Environmental groups slam slow progress on Arctic HFO ban. Paul Gunton. *ShipInsight.* 24 February 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/environmental-groups-slam-slow-progress-on-arctic-hfo-ban NGOs and Indigenous groups have cautiously acknowledged progress by IMO and its Member States in agreeing on a draft regulation on heavy fuel oil (HFO) use and carriage in the Arctic, but denounced the inclusion of loopholes in the text that mean the ban will not come into effect until 2029, leaving the Arctic exposed to the growing threat of HFO spills for close to another decade.


**LAW & POLICY**

Climate change: UK sacks its UN conference president. David Shukman. *BBC News.* 1 February 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-51334031 In a surprise move, the woman appointed to run the crucial UN climate summit in Glasgow in November has been sacked.

Ambitious bill aims to render shipping's CO2 targets mandatory. Mette Mandrup. *ShippingWatch.* 4 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11918553.ece Jutta Paulus, the EU Parliament's spokesperson for a new CO2 bill, wants it written into law that the shipping sector must reduce its greenhouse gases 40 percent by 2030 — that is, measured in comparison to 2018, whereas the IMO compares to 2008.

Co-existing in marine space. Dale Rodmell. *UK Government.* 4 February 2020. Available from: [https://marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/04/co-existing-in-marine-space/](https://marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/04/co-existing-in-marine-space/) For the fishing industry, the development of large-scale projects (such as offshore windfarms) in the marine area can mean displacement from customary fishing grounds and knock-on effects elsewhere.


Kenya bets on research to unlock maritime potential. Winnie Atieno. *Business Daily (Kenya).* 5 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/corporate/shipping/Kenya-bets-on-research-to-unlock-maritime-potential/4003122-5443972-k6s3ge/index.html](https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/corporate/shipping/Kenya-bets-on-research-to-unlock-maritime-potential/4003122-5443972-k6s3ge/index.html) Africa and the adjacent island States have been urged to harness ocean science and research to optimally utilise the huge untapped potential of the blue economy.


The maritime industry development plan. Ambassador Carlos Salinas. *Manila Times.* 5 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/02/05/business/ maritime-business/the-maritime-industry-development-plan/679659/](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/02/05/business/maritime-business/the-maritime-industry-development-plan/679659/) As Engineer Emmanuel Baybayan Carpio, Marina’s director for policy and planning service, remarked in his Preface to the Plan, the MIDP 2019-2028 is a milestone since, "It is the first time that this kind of a comprehensive plan was crafted to provide the direction to the Philippine maritime industry in charting its path to global competitiveness and sustainable growth.”

Nigeria Vessels Set To Return To Int'l Route – NIMASA. Yusuf Babalola. *Leadership (Nigeria).* 6 February 2020. Available from: [https://leadership.ng/2020/02/06/nigeria-vessels-set-to-return-to-intl-route-nimasa/](https://leadership.ng/2020/02/06/nigeria-vessels-set-to-return-to-intl-route-nimasa/) The director-general of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Dakuku Peterside, yesterday said that Nigeria is ready to flag vessels that will ply international routes and move cargoes around the world.


Deep sea mining and future generations. The Ecologist. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://theecologist.org/2020/feb/10/deep-sea-mining-and-future-generations The Goa Foundation (GF) and The Future We Need (TFWN) have jointly launched a global campaign demanding the implementation of the intergenerational equity principle in deep sea mining in waters beyond national jurisdictions.


Carnival Corporation: Policy change after dumping violations. Sloan Smith. Eyewitness News (The Bahamas). 12 February 2020. Available from: https://ewnnews.com/carnival-corporation-policy-change-after-dumping-violations As it continues to receive backlash over past and recent environmental violations, including discharging blackwater in Bahamian seas, Carnival Corporation officials have assured that numerous policy changes have been implemented to ensure that those violations are not repeated.


EU starts to chart shipping’s new green course. Sam Morgan. EurActiv. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://www.euractiv.com/section/shipping/news/eu-starts-to-chart-shippings-new-green-course/ The shipping industry will soon have to pay for its environmental impact in the EU, as both the European Commission and Parliament are moving forward with plans to include vessels in the bloc’s flagship carbon market.

UK maritime minister Ghani ousted in cabinet reshuffle. Holly Birkett. TradeWinds. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/ports/uk-maritime-minister-ghani-ousted-in-cabinet-reshuffle/2-1-755678 Ghani, who has been in the post since January 2018, tweeted that it had been a “huge privilege” to have been in the role and said much had been achieved in the past two years.


Ireland revokes licence of livestock ship operator over low performance rating.

Ex-Coast Guard chief, officials indicted in Sewol ferry disaster probe. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 18 February 2020. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200218005400315  The former Korea Coast Guard chief and other senior officials were indicted Tuesday for their alleged mishandling of one of the country’s worst maritime disasters, in which more than 300 people died.


India arrests tankers over Iran smuggling allegations. Bob Rust. TradeWinds. 19 February 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/india-arrests-tankers-over-iran-smuggling-allegations/2-1-759325  Indian fiscal authorities have seized at least three small tankers over allegations of illegally importing Iranian crude oil.


German official pitches for EU Maritime Co-ordinator to raise sector’s profile. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd's List. 20 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1131110/German-official-pitches-for-EU-Maritime-Coordinator-to-raise-sectors-profile  In a week meant to promote European shipping and its significance, Germany’s maritime coordinator claimed that the maritime sector has “no voice or face in Europe” and called for a maritime coordinator within the EU.

20 February 2020. Available from: [http://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_comments_on_revised_bbnj_draft_text_of_nov_2019_feb_2020.pdf](http://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_comments_on_revised_bbnj_draft_text_of_nov_2019_feb_2020.pdf) Aware that the conservation of marine biodiversity is a common concern and the shared responsibility of all States and that States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment in ABNJ and to assist other States to do the same.

**Norway rejects Moscow’s claim it violated Svalbard Treaty.** Nerijus Adomaitis. *Reuters.*

21 February 2020. Available from: [https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-russia-norway-svalbard/norway-rejects-moscows-claim-it-violated-svalbard-treaty-idUKKBN20F1TJ](https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-russia-norway-svalbard/norway-rejects-moscows-claim-it-violated-svalbard-treaty-idUKKBN20F1TJ) Norway has rejected Russian accusations of violating the terms of an international treaty regulating activities on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, as a diplomatic spat over Russian operations there escalated.


**Women in maritime: Leading the way in maritime law.** *DCN - Daily Cargo News (Australia).*


**Scientists call on government to increase UK’s ambition to save our ocean.** Alan Williams. *University of Plymouth (UK).* 25 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/scientists-call-on-government-to-increase-uks-ambition-to-save-our-ocean](https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/scientists-call-on-government-to-increase-uks-ambition-to-save-our-ocean) In the last decade there has been rapid expansion in the area of ocean designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA).

**Failure is not an option.** Brenda V. Pimentel. *Manila Times.* 26 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/02/26/business/maritime-business/failure-is-not-an-option/696175/](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/02/26/business/maritime-business/failure-is-not-an-option/696175/) This is a catch phrase which individuals, organizations, governments, industry and the public embrace in their respective endeavours.


**MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

Project examines lasers as replacement for hull coatings. Malcolm Latarche. *ShipInsight*. 4 February 2020. Available from: [https://shipinsight.com/articles/project-examines-lasers-as-replacement-for-hull-coatings](https://shipinsight.com/articles/project-examines-lasers-as-replacement-for-hull-coatings) The scientists behind the three-year European laser project MultiFlex expect the specially-designed structures on steel ship hulls helping to reduce fuel consumption and replace toxic ship paints and varnishes that are harmful to the environment.


Cruise Lines Face New Skepticism on Pollution-Cutting Technology. Rosie Spinks. Skift Corporate. 18 February 2020. Available from: https://skift.com/2020/02/18/cruise-lines-face-new-skepticism-on-pollution-cutting-technology/ A new internal report from the International Maritime Organization has cast further doubt over the environmental safety of using exhaust gas cleaning systems — more commonly referred to as “scrubbers” — to reduce air pollution on cruise ships.


MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING

93 Mediterranean maritime academy graduates find their sea legs. Financial Mirror (Cyprus). 31 January 2020. Available from: https://www.financialmirror.com/2020/01/31/93-cyprus-maritime-academy-graduates-find-their-sea-legs/ The first 93 graduates from the Mediterranean Maritime Academy are already placed on ships or on their way to joining the merchant navy, with the Limassol-based school preparing a further 304 cadets ready to sail to new careers.

Grooming the next generation of women maritime leaders. Maritime Gateway. February 2020. Available from: http://www.maritimegateway.com/grooming-next-generation-women-maritime-leaders/ Women currently make up just 2 per cent of the global maritime workforce (according to figures from the International Transport Workers’ Federation), so it’s fair to say there is room for improvement.

Marine pollution control Indian ship joins UAE Coast Guard for training. Dhanusha Gokulan. Khaleej Times (United Arab Emirates). 3 February 2020. Available from: https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/dubai/marine-pollution-control-indian-ship-joins-uae-coast-guard-for-training A special marine pollution control Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS), Samudra Paheredar, has arrived in the UAE on a good-will visit and to undertake joint exercises with the UAE Coast Guard.

Strengthening the Participation of Women and Girls in Ocean Science to Achieve the SDGs.
Michael Lodge. *International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*. 10 February 2020. Available from: http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/strengthening-the-participation-of-women-and-girls-in-ocean-science-to-achieve-the-sdgs/ As we celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February 2020, we are reminded of the need to renew our commitments to improve access for women from developing States to education and training, and ensure their increased participation in the field of ocean science, particularly in deep-sea scientific research.


Fake certificate scam: DG Shipping revokes approval for Puducherry-based Marine Officers' Training Academy. P Manoj. *Hindu BusinessLine (India)*. 14 February 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2x4guBm The Director General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has de-recognised and permanently revoked the approval granted to the Puducherry-based Marine Officers' Training Academy (MOTA), for flouting training rules, including issuing fake certificates to candidates without conducting classes and imparting training.


On global performance standards. Ambassador Carlos Salinas. Manila Times. 26 February 2020. Available from: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/02/26/business/maritime-business/on-global-performance-standards/696176. As a leading resource of global maritime professionals, the Philippines has a primary responsibility to ensure that the level of competency of our seafarers continues to exceed the benchmark standards established by the international maritime industry.


MARITIME SAFETY


Iran calls for review of tanker safety after Sanchi report. Nidaa Bakhsh. Lloyd’s List. 4 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130875/Iran-calls-for-review-of-tanker-safety-after-Sanchi-report. Iran is asking International Maritime Organization member states to review and update tanker safety following a study conducted by the University of Tehran into the conditions aboard Sanchi after it collided with a bulker two years ago.


MARITIME SECURITY


International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) expresses concern at increasing attacks on ships crews. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)*. 5 February 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/3ajctaG](https://bit.ly/3ajctaG) The number of ship’s crewmembers being kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea increased by more than 50% in 2019 and this year has begun with a further escalation of violence, armed robbery and kidnapping.


Missiles landed "metres" from LPG carrier in Tripoli port attack. Gary Dixon. *TradeWinds*. 18 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/missiles-landed-metres-from-lpg-carrier-in-tripoli-port-attack/2-1-758510](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/missiles-landed-metres-from-lpg-carrier-in-tripoli-port-attack/2-1-758510) Tankers were told to leave the port of Tripoli and an LPG carrier had a narrow escape after the terminal was shelled by forces loyal to warlord Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) on Tuesday.

“Shipping is so insecure we could have driven off in an oil rig”. *Dryad Global.* 20 February 2020. Available from: [https://dryadglobal.com/shipping-is-so-insecure-we-could-have-driven-off-in-an-oil-rig/](https://dryadglobal.com/shipping-is-so-insecure-we-could-have-driven-off-in-an-oil-rig/) Penetration testers looking at commercial shipping and oil rigs discovered a litany of security blunders and vulnerabilities – including one set that would have let them take full control of a rig at sea.


Hackers can easily manipulate ships' GPS signals. *ShippingWatch.* 28 February 2020. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11971446.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/secure/suppliers/article11971446.ece) It has become too easy for hackers to manipulate GPS readings, and as such, US President Donald Trump takes steps to have shipping lines protect themselves better when navigating.

**MIGRANTS**


Spain: Morocco saves 14 migrants, 14 others feared drowned. *Associated Press.* 19 February 2020. Available from: [https://apnews.com/dde0d8c8fe4a46d697e04d23ca45b4d](https://apnews.com/dde0d8c8fe4a46d697e04d23ca45b4d) Moroccan authorities rescued only 14 migrants from a boat carrying 28 people that capsized off the Western Sahara coast, raising fears that the others drowned, Spain's maritime rescue service said Wednesday.

IOM Calls on the International Community for Urgent Action to Find Alternatives to Disembarkation in Libya. *International Organization for Migration (IOM).* 19 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.iom.int/news/iom-calls-international-community-urgent-action-find-alternatives-disembarkation-libya](https://www.iom.int/news/iom-calls-international-community-urgent-action-find-alternatives-disembarkation-libya) IOM today is calling on the international community including the European Union to find an alternative safe disembarkation mechanism for migrants rescued fleeing Libya by boat after roughly 200 migrants were returned to Tripoli, hours after the city’s main port was heavily shelled on Tuesday.

NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS


Extensive seabed maps presented to TCI Government. Turks and Caicos Weekly News. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://tcweeklynews.com/extensive-seabed-maps-presented-to TCI-government-p10334-127.htm MAPS of the seabed surrounding the Turks and Caicos Islands have been handed over to the TCI Government to help promote safe maritime trade and a sustainable blue economy.


Ships are skipping China causing turmoil for trade. Gulf News (UAE). 15 February 2020. Available from: https://gulfnews.com/business/ships-are-skipping-china-causing-turmoil-for-trade-1.69719392 February 2020 will come to be remembered as a period of historic disruption to physical supply chains the world over, as the coronavirus wrecks trade.


CalMac crew praised for berthing lurching ferry at Ardrossan. *BBC News*. 16 February 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glascow-west-51522580. The crew of a CalMac ferry have been praised for their skill as dramatic footage showed the vessel struggling to berth in stormy seas.


**PIRACY**


Reign of Pirates. Eromosele Abiodun. *This Day (Nigeria)*. 21 February 2020. Available from: https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/02/21/reign-of-pirates/ In a move ostensibly planned to rubbish recent announcement by the federal government through the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi that the government is planning to deploy specialised equipment to halt the piracy and criminality in the Niger Delta, pirates recently attacked a container vessel off Nigerian coast last week.


**PORT STATE CONTROL**

Japan decides to refuse entry to noncitizen cruise ship passengers bound for Okinawa due to virus concerns. Satoshi Sugiyama. *Japan Times*. 6 February 2020. Available from: https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/06/national/science-health/japan-10-more-coronavirus-cases-quarantined-cruise-ship/ Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Thursday that Japan has decided to refuse entry to noncitizen passengers on board a luxury cruise ship that is set to arrive in the country later this week as some are suspected to be infected with the new coronavirus.
Coronavirus: Govt directs 12 major ports to put in place screening, quarantine system.


**PORTS & HARBOURS**

€49.9m project to reduce air pollution in Grand Harbour by 90%. *Malta Independent*. 4 February 2020. Available from: https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2020/02/04/local-news/49-9m-project-to-reduce-air-pollution-in-Grand-Harbour-by-90-6736219259 Infrastructure Malta today launched a €49.9 million shore side electricity project to cut over 90% of the air pollution that cruise liners and Ro-Ro ships produce when visiting the Grand Harbour.

UK ports calling for funding for local preparedness for the Coronavirus. *British Ports Association*. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://www.britishports.org.uk/news/uk-ports-calling-for-funding-for-local-preparedness-for-the-coronavirus Following the Health Secretary’s statement this morning that Coronavirus represents “serious and imminent threat” to public health, the British Ports Association is calling for more funding and support to be given to UK local authority officials to prepare our borders.

In a world-first, India’s dozen major ports now run fully on renewable energy. P Manoj. *Hindu BusinessLine (India)*. 12 February 2020. Available from: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/in-a-world-first-indias-dozen-major-ports-now-run-fully-on-renewable-energy/article30798156.ece The dozen state-owned major ports in the country have switched to renewable energy to meet their entire power requirements, making India the first nation to have all government-owned ports running on solar and wind energy.

Ships may face more than 30% higher costs under new Panama Canal Authority measures, says International Chamber of Shipping. *International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).*


Digitising our ports, embracing innovation. Kazi Emdadul Haq. *Daily Star (Bangladesh).*


Coronavirus impact: Containers from China languish at Indian ports on documentation woes.


ESPO Position Paper on EU Green Deal. *European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO).*


ITF and ETF call upon ship operators to return lashing to shore-based dock workers.


Coronavirus slows cargo flow at Mombasa port.


Bahamian Ports Face Full Security Exercise.


EU policymakers witness shipping’s decarbonisation efforts on visit to the Port of Antwerp.

Shipping lines face troubled waters as oil tankers, container carriers and cruise lines stop calling on China for fear of catching the coronavirus. Ryan Swift. South China Morning Post. 24 February 2020. Available from:
https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/3051784/shipping-lines-face-troubled-waters-oil-tankers-container
Port calls to China are becoming less frequent, as fear of catching the coronavirus and a slowdown in the Chinese economy have deterred cruise liners, container ships, oil tankers and bulk carriers alike from stopping at the country’s harbours.

The full version of the World Bank study on “Strengthening Ukraine’s Port Sector Governance” has been published. Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority (USPA). 24 February 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2uQVBsE The World Bank experts, upon the request of the Ministry of Infrastructure and with the active participation of the team of the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority, have completed their work to present the results of the study on the prospects for strengthening Ukraine’s port sector governance.


Spotlight: Greece’s Piraeus port kicks off cruise terminal expansion project. Xinhuanet (China). 26 February 2020. Available from: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/26/c_138818897_2.htm Greek’s largest port Piraeus on Tuesday kicked off its expansion project which, once completed, will usher in a "new era" for the port and cruise sector in Greece.


REGULATIONS


From the News Desk: Has the shipping sector accepted new EU emissions rules are inevitable? Adam Sharpe. Lloyd’s List. 25 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1131215/From-the-News-Desk-Has-the-shipping-sector-accepted-new-EU-emissions-rules-are-inevitable The mood at European Shipping Week was one of acceptance that decarbonisation regulations are on the way sooner rather than later, but there is still disagreement over the best way to tackle the issue.

Restrictions on the use of open-loop scrubbers in France, Portugal, Spain and Gibraltar. Standard Club. 25 February 2020. Available from: https://bit.ly/2PR0Ccb Members with ships fitted with scrubbers and trading in European ports are advised that based on the information provided by the club’s correspondents in France, Portugal, Spain and Gibraltar that there are restrictions placed on the use of open loop systems. Scrubber Ban Map

SALVAGE

Will The Golden Ray Salvage Threaten OPA 90? gCaptain. 4 February 2020. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/golden-ray-salvage-opa-90/ This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA-90) — one of the most successful disaster response and environmental protection laws in U.S. history.

Judge questions plan to remove capsized ship in huge chunks. Russ Bynum. Associated Press. 21 February 2020. Available from: https://apnews.com/0d7682b5c7a133c52855911440524c9c A federal judge on Friday ordered attorneys for the U.S. Coast Guard and a maritime salvage company to answer detailed questions about plans to remove an overturned cargo ship on the Georgia coast by sawing it into eight enormous chunks.
**Current Awareness Bulletin** | Vol. XXX | No. 2 | February 2020


**SEAFARERS**


**Greek government under fire over abandoned Probulk crew.** Harry Papachristou. *TradeWinds.* 7 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/greek-government-under-fire-over-abandoned-probulk-crew/2-1-750380](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/law/greek-government-under-fire-over-abandoned-probulk-crew/2-1-750380) Four Greek seamen stranded in Djibouti are causing a political furore in Greece, with the opposition raising the case in parliament and the government pledging to take unconventional measures to secure their release.

**Agency for Filipino crew in virus-hit Japan cruise ship assures seafarers’ safety.** *ABS-CBN (Philippines).* 7 February 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2THB0j0](https://bit.ly/2THB0j0) The agency for Filipino crew members onboard a cruise ship off Japan assured the seafarers’ families that they will be protected, amid their quarantine due to the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that hit the vessel early this week.

**GMA express concern over rising kidnapping cases on Gulf of Guinea.** *Ghana News Agency.* 10 February 2020. Available from: [https://ghananewsagency.org/economics/gma-expresses-concern-over-rising-kidnapping-cases-on-gulf-of-guinea-163806](https://ghananewsagency.org/economics/gma-expresses-concern-over-rising-kidnapping-cases-on-gulf-of-guinea-163806) Mr Thomas Alonsi, the Director-General, Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), has expressed concern over the Gulf of Guinea.


Why harbour master Georgina Carlo-Paat spent her life at sea. BBC News. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-50659117 Georgina Carlo-Paat describes how she went from ship cook to the dredging industry's first female captain - a varied career during which she has watched penguins play on icebergs, eaten lobster in a Russian nightclub after a spell in the Baltic, and become Ilfracombe's first woman harbour master.


Charities continue providing seafarer welfare amid coronavirus restrictions. Seatrade Maritime News. 18 February 2020. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/charities-continue-providing-seafarer-welfare-amid-coronavirus-restrictions Seafarer charities are continuing to provide welfare services despite restrictions on activities such as ship visits and shore leave being enforced in some countries in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19).


DG Shipping warns seafarers recruitment agents against taking money to give jobs. P Manoj. Hindu BusinessLine (India). 18 February 2020. Available from: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/dg-shipping-warns-seafarers-recruitment-agents-against-taking-money-to-give-jobs/article30849091.ece India's maritime administration, the Director General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has advised seafarers recruitment and placement agents and shipping companies to refrain from taking money for employment as it was unlawful under the country’s maritime law.


Coronavirus increases demand for Eastern European crew. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 21 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/coronavirus-increases-demand-for-eastern-european-crew/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/coronavirus-increases-demand-for-eastern-european-crew/) As global restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak begin to impact the shipping industry, crewing specialist Danica reports an increase in enquiries from shipping companies seeking to employ Eastern European crew but says, as yet, salaries have not been affected by any shortages.


Crew member with COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Fully Recovers and Ship Resumes Normal Operations. *Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).* 24 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/e7a16c6a-fe5c-47bb-b9ad-03538c6d9fa0](https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/e7a16c6a-fe5c-47bb-b9ad-03538c6d9fa0) A crew member working onboard a cargo ship which arrived in the Port of Singapore from China was earlier diagnosed to have the COVID-19 infection (Case 10).


Barriers to work highlighted by female seafarers at European Shipping Week. *Nautilus International.* 24 February 2020. Available from: [https://bit.ly/2TCMCN5](https://bit.ly/2TCMCN5) The female seafarers that told these anecdotes and many like them to a conference on the participation of women in European shipping, were able to look back and laugh at some of the hurdles they have faced throughout their careers at sea, but they highlight the very real struggles still faced by females going to sea today.


Filipino crew leave *Diamond Princess*; others remain on board. Ana P Santos. *Aljazeera*. 26 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/filipino-crew-leave-diamond-princess-remain-board-200225020355478.html](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/filipino-crew-leave-diamond-princess-remain-board-200225020355478.html) The repatriation of 445 Filipino crew members from the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship docked in Japan was completed on Wednesday morning, ending more than three weeks of agony for almost half the staff on board the coronavirus-stricken ship, even as hundreds of workers from other countries were left behind.


**SEARCH & RESCUE**

Drones could form key part of next generation of UK search and rescue. *UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency*. 5 February 2020. Available from: [http://hmcoastguard.blogspot.com/2020/02/drones-could-form-key-part-of-next.html](http://hmcoastguard.blogspot.com/2020/02/drones-could-form-key-part-of-next.html) From accidents off the rugged cliffs of the Atlantic coast to casualties in the high waves of the North Sea, drones could be used in the future to help save lives across the UK.

Coastguard races to 'multiple incidents' in Channel day after record 90 migrants reach UK. Rebekah Evans. *Express (UK)*. 7 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1239171/kent-news-migrant-ships-channel-uk-coastguard-migrant-crisis](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1239171/kent-news-migrant-ships-channel-uk-coastguard-migrant-crisis) 11 more suspected migrants were brought ashore in Dover this morning, after the Coastguard carried out search-and-rescue operations for "a number of incidents" according to BBC News reporter Simon Jones.


Spain rescues 119 migrants, launches search for 67 missing. *Associated Press*. 10 February 2020. Available from: [https://apnews.com/aa856783a2b6366f4d534f6d00ce449](https://apnews.com/aa856783a2b6366f4d534f6d00ce449) Spain on Monday rescued 119 migrants from the sea and was looking for 67 more believed to have gone missing on a boat while trying to reach European shores, the country’s maritime authorities said on Monday.


**SHIP RECYCLING**


Older Ships Are Being Rushed to the Scrapyards. Nikos Roussanoglou. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 6 February 2020. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/older-ships-are-being-rushed-to-the-scrapyards/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/older-ships-are-being-rushed-to-the-scrapyards/) Amidst a major crisis like the current one, with most of China under lock-down, the shipping industry has a solid opportunity to accelerate the decommissioning of a significant number of older vessels.


As ocean temperatures rise, shipowners look for ways to cope. Hellenic Shipping News. 19 February 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/as-ocean-temperatures-rise-shipowners-look-for-ways-to-cope/ According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the oceans absorb the majority of the heat created by greenhouse gas emissions, causing their temperature to rise.


SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR

Leading the way towards the world’s first zero emissions supply vessel. Wärtsilä Corporation. 4 February 2020. Available from: https://www.wartsila.com/media/news/04-02-2020-leading-the-way-towards-the-worlds-first-zero-emissions-supply-vessel Since 2003, Wärtsilä and Eidesvik Offshore have collaborated on the development and verification of new environmental technology and now the two companies are joined by Equinor, Prototech and EU initiative, ShipFC, in a five year demo project where the « Viking Energy » will become the world’s first zero emissions supply vessel – with fuel cells powered by ammonia.


Construction advances on world’s first LNG bunker ATB. John Snyder. LNG World Shipping. 23 February 2020. Available from: https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/construction-advances-on-worlds-first-lng-bunker-atb-55644 Shipowners that have opted to burn LNG as a marine fuel to comply with IMO’s 2020 sulphur cap will benefit from the world’s first LNG bunker articulated tug barge (ATB) unit, due to enter service next year.

Ship Repair Sector in Coronavirus Shock. Nikos Roussanoglou. *Hellenic Shipping News*. 28 February 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/ship-repair-sector-in-coronavirus-shock/ The ship repair segment has been one of the hardest hit from the widespread effects of the Coronavirus, not only due to the restriction of operations of major yards, but also due to the fact that business was sky-high as well.

**SHIPPING**

Shipping law firm Hill Dickinson has warned owners that the deadline for the ban on carrying non-compliant fuels is fast approaching and plans need to be put in place for de-bunkering.

January 1 brought with it the implementation of a regulation issued by the International Maritime Organization known as IMO 2020, which requires carriers to limit the sulfur content of the fuel they burn to 0.5% — a drastic reduction from the previous cap of 3.5%.

2020 Global Container Shipping Outlook

In an open letter, a number of shipping organizations have now responded to a criticism from environmental alliance Clean Arctic Alliance.


New fuels contain a surprising amount of impurities and water. Katrine Grønvald Raun. *ShippingWatch*. 5 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11921844.ece Now more than a month has passed since the global sulfur cap came into force, and a majority of the global fleet has had to switch to the new low-sulfur fuel oils, VLSFO, which are unfamiliar to the industry.
Dutch multinationals demand more transparent CO2 reporting per container. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 6 February 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/dutch-multinationals-demand-more-transparent-co2-reporting-per-container/ On the back of successful biofuel trials onboard the 18,000 teu Mette Maersk from Rotterdam to Shanghai last year, the Danish carrier has launched a new product called ECO Delivery, while six of the Netherlands' largest conglomerates have committed to use the emerging fuel more often and are demanding carriers become more transparent with their emissions per container.

Hit & Sunk: How to Clean the Shipping Sector. Bellona Foundation. 6 February 2020. Available from: https://bellona.org/news/transport/electric-vehicles/2020-02-hit-sunk-how-to-clean-the-shipping-sector If there is a word that has been discussed a lot in the year 2019 it has definitely been flight-shaming.


The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Shipping infected by coronavirus. Lloyd’s List. 7 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130940/The-Lloyds-List-Podcast-Shipping-infected-by-coronavirus Shipping seems to have initially underestimated quite how significant the impact of the coronavirus outbreak was going to be.

The Interview: Dr Aleka Sheppard. Davis Osler. Lloyd’s List. 7 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1130936/The-Interview-Dr-Aleka-Sheppard Dr Aleka Sheppard founded the London Shipping Law Centre in 1994, in what she now admits to be an outburst of naïve enthusiasm.


Interview: Stena Bulk working actively to reduce carbon footprint after IMO 2020 preparations.

Shipping is getting smashed by coronavirus in more ways than one. Straits Times.

Trade Challenges Ahead for the Shipping Industry. Nikos Roussanosglou. Hellenic Shipping News. 11 February 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/trade-challenges-ahead-for-the-shipping-industry Brexit, IMO 2020 and the Coronavirus are plaguing the shipping industry of late and ECSA (European Community Shipowners' Associations) is working round the clock in order to offer solutions to its members and advocate the industry’s contribution towards the European economy.

EU quota plans cause European shipowners to call for global strategy. Søren Pico. ShippingWatch. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11932449.ece Several shipowners’ associations around Europe now criticize the EU's plans to add shipping to its quota scheme. Limited engine power to reduce CO2 from existing ships. Dan Rutherford, Xiaoli Mao, Liudmila Osipova and Bryan Comer. International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT). 10 February 2020. Available from: https://theicct.org/publications/limiting-engine-power-reduce-co2-existing-ships-2020 As the International Maritime Organization works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping, technical measures to limit engine power are among the ideas being considered to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) from the existing fleet.

Shipping could raise ambition of 2030 climate target, study shows. Chloé Farand. Climate Home News. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/02/11/shipping-could-raise-ambition-of-2030-climate-target-study-shows International shipping could scale up goals for decarbonisation in coming years since the sector’s climate target for 2030 was already three-quarters met when it was set two years ago, a study showed.

31 sailings cancelled due to coronavirus. Trine Vestergaard. ShippingWatch. 10 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/article11931750.ece A total of 31 sailings have been cancelled in a short time frame as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.
Shipping needs certainty. Malcolm Latarche. *ShipInsight*. 12 February 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/shipping-needs-certainty  There are very few industries that work to similar asset life spans than shipping where most ships are expected to work for 20-25 years and some specialist vessels such as LNG carriers and passenger ferries for much longer.


Stranded tankers, full storage tanks: coronavirus leads to crude glut in China. Muyu Xu, Shu Zhang and Devika Krishna Kumar. *Reuters*. 13 February 2020. Available from: https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-oil-storage/stranded-tankers-full-storage-tanks-coronavirus-leads-to-crude-glut-in-china-idUKKBN2072NR The coronavirus’s effect on energy markets is worsening, as the sharp fall in demand in China, the world’s largest importer of crude, is stranding oil cargoes off the country’s coast and prompting shippers to seek out other Asian destinations.


Cleaning up the cruise sector. *World Ocean Initiative (WOI).* 17 February 2020. Available from: https://www.woi.economist.com/cleaning-up-the-cruise-sector/ The cruise sector is the most visible part of the maritime industry, an intensely marketed leisure activity which is undergoing significant growth.


Illicit secondary bunker market emerging as carriage ban approaches. Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 18 February 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/illicit-secondary-bunker-market-holes-into-view-as-carriage-ban-approaches/ Law firm Ince Gordon Dadds is warning of rogue bunker operations escalating as the days tick down to the International Maritime Organisation’s carriage ban rule, due to come into force in less than a fortnight.


The twelve lives of the *MV Astoria*: World’s oldest cruise ship to make final sailing. *New Zealand Herald.* 18 February 2020. Available from: https://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=12309483 In her 72 years since sailing out of the Swedish dockyards in Gothenburg, she has survived some remarkable things. Originally called the MS Stockholm, she has changed names no fewer than eleven times.

POSITION PAPER: A Green Deal for the European shipping industry. *European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA).* 18 February 2020. Available from: https://www.ecsa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2020%20ECSA%20Position%20Paper%20-%20A%20Green%20Deal%20for%20the%20European%20shipping%20industry.pdf The shipping industry is fully committed to eradicating its GHG emissions completely, in line with the ambitious targets agreed for the sector by its global regulator, the UN International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as part of the initial IMO GHG strategy agreed in 2018, and consistent with the 1.5 degree UNFCCC climate change goal.
Discussing social matters with social partners - Day Two of the European Shipping Week. 
The second day of the European Shipping week was filled with contributions by the European social partners for maritime transport – the European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF) and the European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA).

Climate change: Fertiliser could be used to power ocean-going ships. Roger Harrabin. 
Ocean-going ships could be powered by ammonia within the decade as the shipping industry takes action to curb carbon emissions.


Coronavirus supply chain headaches spread as more than one in two Asia – North Europe sailings are cancelled. Sam Chambers. _Splash 247.com_ 19 February 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/coronavirus-supply-chain-headaches-spread-as-more-than-one-in-two-asia-north-europe-sailings-are-cancelled/ More than one in two carrier departures from Asia to North Europe are being cancelled in the wake of the coronavirus that has hammered China, the world’s manufacturing centre, very hard since the start of the year.


Railway protests backing up cargo ships off the Southern Gulf Islands. Sarah Reid. 
_CTV News (Canada)_ 20 February 2020. Available from: https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/railway-protests-backing-up-cargo-ships-off-the-southern-gulf-islands-1.4821372 The ongoing railway protests happening across the country are having a significant impact on Vancouver Island.
Shipping industry faces $370 million hit from new Panama Canal charge. Jonathan Saul. Reuters. 20 February 2020. Available from: https://reut.rs/2uSpFnT A new “freshwater” charge introduced this month to help the Panama Canal cope with climate change will cost the shipping industry up to $370 million a year, marking another blow for maritime companies already hit by fallout from the coronavirus outbreak.


Shipowners call on EU to support new CO2 fund. Katrine Grønvald Raun. ShippingWatch. 20 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11955020.ece It is crucial that EU member states support the proposal for a new billion-dollar fund in late March when it will be debated at the IMO, says President & CEO of the World Shipping Council.


Japan’s engine power limitation plans gain widespread support ahead of MEPC. Sam Chambers. Splash 247.com. 21 February 2020. Available from: https://splash247.com/japans-engine-power-limitation-plans-gain-widespread-support-ahead-of-mepc/ A host of shipping’s most powerful states and associations have come round to support Japan’s controversial ship power limiting proposals as the best bet for the industry to enact short-term emissions cutting commitments, with the IMO set to debate the topic in the next month.


EU committed to introducing CO2 quotas on shipping. Katrine Grønvald Raun and Mette Mandrup. ShippingWatch. 24 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/regulation/article11961422.ece CO2 quotas must be imposed on shipping, and the proposal will be introduced in a few months, says top official.


Shipping’s new dawn — it’s early days yet. Paul Berrill. TradeWinds. 24 February 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/twplus/shipping-s-new-dawn-it-s-early-days-yet/2-1-746482 The IMO 2020 changeover was not the immediate disaster some had predicted, but the jury is out on potential longer-term problems, and it could still prove to have been a wrong turning.


Disagreements over approach to decarbonisation persist. Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd's List. 24 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1131133/Disagreements-over-approach-to-decarbonisation-persist/ Shipping’s long-term shift away from fossil bunker fuels may be a foregone conclusion, but within the industry there remain different visions of how easy that will be and who will be the driving forces behind it.

The Poseidon Principles – Part 1 - Overview Marie-Anne Moussalli and Ioanna Tsekoura. Clyde & Co LLP. 24 February 2020. Available from: https://www.clydeco.com/insight/article/the-poseidon-principles-part-1-overview In April 2018, the International Maritime Organisation (the “IMO”), took the unprecedented step of committing the shipping industry to a long-term strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping, and to phase them out as soon as possible this century.


What suits cruising may not suit cargo. Malcolm Latache. ShipInsight. 25 February 2020. Available from: https://shipinsight.com/articles/what-suits-cruising-may-not-suit-cargo There is no doubt that the idea of Just in Time (JIT) sailing can be attractive to some combinations of ports and ship operators but for the majority of cargo ships operating around the globe it is – under present circumstances – not a viable proposition.

BIMCO, ICS, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO launch survey to identify fuel oil issues.


StartUps in the maritime economy: friend or foe? MundoMaritimo. 25 February 2020. Available from: https://mundomaritimo.net/noticias/startups-in-the-maritime-economy-friend-or-foe The concept of ‘start-up’ companies is no stranger in the current economy, but it is a relative newcomer for the maritime industry.

Small island states point out flaws in shipping’s $5bn R&D fund proposal.
Anastassios Adamopoulos. Lloyd's List. 27 February 2020. Available from: https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1131235/Small-island-states-point-out-flaws-in-shippings-5bn-RD-fund-proposal Vanuatu objects to the proposed way in which fees would be collected, saying there is already a practical blueprint in use that could be adopted for this new R&D levy.

Singapore Maritime Week cancelled as coronavirus outbreak hits shipping events.
Dale Wainwright and Eric Martin. TradeWinds. 28 February 2020. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/insight/singapore-maritime-week-cancelled-as-coronavirus-outbreak-hits-shipping-events/2-1-764482 Singapore’s showcase annual maritime event has been postponed, making it the latest international gathering to fall victim to the coronavirus as it verges on becoming a global pandemic.

Coronavirus' worst-case scenario looks very severe for shipping. Tomas Kristiansen. ShippingWatch. 28 February 2020. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/secure/carriers/Container/article11971761.ece Consultancy firm Drewry outlines three possible scenarios for how the coronavirus could develop and impact global trade, and thus the container sector.

Shipping's Smaller Operators Are Most Susceptible to the Coronavirus Financial Impact. Hellenic Shipping News. 28 February 2020. Available from: https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/shippings-smaller-operators-are-most-susceptible-to-the-coronavirus-financial-impact/ This was supposed to be a year of recovery for the world’s oceangoing shipping companies, with trading peace in major markets providing a new period of stability for cargo carriers.

**RESEARCH**

Nguyen TH, Tang FHM, et al. Sinking of microbial-associated microplastics in natural waters. PLOS ONE. 3 February 2020. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228209 Degraded plastic debris has been found in nearly all waters within and nearby urban developments as well as in the open oceans.


Berenstein I, Paris CB, et al. Invisible oil beyond the Deepwater Horizon satellite footprint. Science Advances. 12 February 2020. Available from: https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/advances/6/7/eaaw8863.full.pdf Major oil spills are catastrophic events that immensely affect the environment and society, yet determining their spatial extent is a highly complex task.


Jones KR, Klein CJ, et al. **Area Requirements to Safeguard Earth's Marine Species.** *One Earth.* 21 February 2020. Available from: [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2020.01.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2020.01.010) Despite global policy commitments to preserve Earth's marine biodiversity, many species are in a state of decline. Using data on 22,885 marine species, we identify 8.5 million km² of priority areas that complement existing areas of conservation and biodiversity importance.